

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13638

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: 31ST SESSION OF UN SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION  
OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

REF: A. GENEVA 12957; B. STATE 221106

1. SUBCOMMISSION SPENT MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, IN CLOSED SESSION DEBATING AGENDA ITEM NO. 10, "COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP...".
2. MORNING SESSION WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO GENERAL DEBATE ON 1503 PROCEDURES AND THE WORKING METHODS OF THE WORKING GROUP. WG REPORT WAS INTRODUCED BY ME AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTOR THEO VAN BOVEN GAVE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF VOLUME AND QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM INCEPTION OF 1503 PROCEDURE.
3. SEVERAL MEMBERS SPOKE TO THE POINT OF THE NEED FOR  
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MORE MEETINGS OF BOTH THE SUBCOMMISSION AND THE WORKING GROUP SO AS TO COVER THE INCREASING VOLUME OF COMMUNICATIONS AND STUDIES AND TO DEAL WITH THEM ON A MORE TOPICAL BASIS. MANY MEMBERS ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE ENTIRE 1503 PROCEDURE AND SPECIFICALLY OF VOTING WITHIN THE WG AND THE SUBCOMMISSION. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF SECRET BALLOT IN VOTING ON

COMMUNICATIONS. PRINCIPAL DISSENTER ON SECRET BALLOT  
IDEA WAS SMIRNOV (USSR).

4. ENTIRE AFTERNOON DEBATE FOCUSED ON COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO ARGENTINA AND MARIO AMADEO, EXPERT FROM ARGENTINA, MADE AN IMPASSIONED 55-MINUTE APPEAL ACKNOWLEDGING CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITHIN HIS COUNTRY BUT SAYING THAT THESE OCCURRED IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL TERRORISM. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT AS BAD AS IT HAD BEEN AND CITED HIS OWN HUMAN RIGHTS CREDENTIALS AS EVIDENCE OF HIS BONA FIDES IN SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT. HE ASKED THE SUBCOMMISSION TO DEFER ELEVATION OF THE ARGENTINE COMMUNICATIONS FOR ANOTHER YEAR, THUS ALLOWING THE GOA A PERIOD FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

5. THE AMADEO APPEAL FOR DEFERMENT WAS SUPPORTED BY KHALIFA (EGYPT) THOUGH HE REJECTED THE AMADEO ARGUMENTS ABOUT REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM. KHALIFA ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS PERSUADED THAT THE ARGENTINE SITUATION WAS BAD BY HIS READING OF THE PATT DERIAN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. OTHER SPEAKERS IN SUPPORT OF DEFERRAL FOR ONE YEAR WERE JIMETA (NIGERIA), WARZAZI (MOROCCO), SADI (JORDAN), AND DAES (GREECE).

6. SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF ELEVATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AT THIS TIME WERE WHITAKER (U.K.), QUESTIAUX (FRANCE) AND MYSELF. I NOTED THAT POSTPONEMENT BY THE SUBCOMMISSION  
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WOULD IN POINT OF FACT DEFER ACTION FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS IN VIEW OF THE TIME LAG BETWEEN SUBCOMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHR ACTION. THIS POSITION WAS SUPPORTED BY SINGHVI (INDIA) AND PERSUADED CHOUDHURY (BANGLADESH) TO REVERSE HIMSELF AND DECLARE FOR ELEVATION.

7. SENTIMENT BETWEEN POSTPONEMENT AND IMMEDIATE ELEVATION IS ALMOST EVENLY DIVIDED. AMADEO'S PLEA WAS ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFERRAL SENTIMENT OUT OF PERSONAL RESPECT FOR THE EXPERT. ALL SPEAKERS AGREED THAT THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA MERITED ELEVATION, THE ONLY DOUBT WAS BASED ON WHEN.

8. SUBCOMMISSION WILL CONTINUE THE DEBATE ON OTHER COMMUNICATIONS THIS MORNING, TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER, AND AFTER THE DEBATE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN TO DETERMINE WHICH COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE ELEVATED TO THE CHR.

9. SEVERAL EXPERT MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN TO ME INDICATING THEIR POSITIVE REACTION TO THE USG REPLY WHICH IS PART OF THE RECORD NOW, THOUGHT I AM NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE A PREDICTION AS TO THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THIS PARTICULAR

COMMUNICATION.

10. DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADVISED BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AS SOON  
AS VOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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